

BOOK REVIEWS

ANDREWS, JEAN. 1971. *Sea Shells of the Texas Coast*. University of Texas Press, Austin and London, xvii + 298 pp., numerous figures. \$17.50.

Though of limited geographical scope, this book will be of interest to shell collectors of the Gulf of Mexico. The first portion of the book gives a brief history of the Texas coast, including interesting facts about the Karankawa Indians and the first Spanish and French expeditions, as well as a description of the coast giving information on various habitats. A chapter on the general features of mollusks is followed by a systematic account of 369 species. Also provided are numerous maps, directions to shore points, techniques for collecting and preparing shells, hints on photography, and even suggestions for preparing meals from one's catch. The final chapter covers the non-molluscan material one finds on Texas beaches, such as worm tubes, gooseneck barnacles, various crabs, egg cases, pumice, and naval flares. A glossary, bibliography, and index complete the book.

Portions of this book should have been checked by specialists. In figure 5 (p. 18), much of which is irrelevant to her discussion of zoogeographic provinces, "Virginian" is misspelled and "Carolinian" is found twice, both spelled differently and neither correctly. Miss Andrews' brief discussion of the Rules of Zoological Nomenclature is unclear and, in the case of the *nomen conservandum*, entirely wrong. The title of Mayr's *Systematics and the Origin of Species* is given incorrectly (p. 39, 281); Mayr's *Principles of Systematic Zoology*, which is listed in the bibliography and which should have been studied, is not mentioned in the appropriate section of the text. In "Table 1: Type Terms", Miss Andrews defines various kinds of types, none of which is referred to in the systematic account; the term "genotype" is no longer used. Figure 19, a classification chart for mollusks, has a number of errors: Octopoda is not a class; Echinodermata, Archaeogastropoda, and *Cassis flammea* are all misspelled.

Amphineura is used for chitons although the term Polyplacophora is now generally accepted. *Neopilina* (p. 31) is not now considered to exhibit true segmentation. *Neoloricata* (p. 53) is misspelled and *Anodontia* is consistently misspelled (p. 173, 287). The etymology of some of the various scientific names is also in error. *Aligena*, for instance, does not come from *aliger*, meaning winged, but from *aligènes*, the epithet of Venus meaning sea-born. *Thais* comes from Greek, not Latin.

Ironically, in the introduction Miss Andrews says that "today we are bogged down in a tangle of names — one shell may have many synonyms" and that "without an extensive library or a large collection from many locations the amateur is greatly handicapped." However, she has consistently avoided listing many synonyms which might help the amateur. Her references to the original descriptions are of little use to the amateur and even if they were, many of those given are not decipherable to the average reader, some are wrong, and the publications usually unavailable. For example, "*Vitrinella texana* Moore 1964, Ph.D. dissertation, p. 66" should be "Moore 1964, *Nautilus*, 78, p. 76"; "Cat. Rec. Marine Moll. Portland Mus." (p. 86) should read "Cat. Recent marine shells found on the coast of North and South Carolina, Portland [Maine]". Would an amateur understand that "*Wieg.* Arch." refers to the *Archiv für Naturgeschichte*? Finally, the author places all species in a detailed scheme of classification, overburdening her readers with subgeneric names, which are not necessary to the identification of species and in many groups are of debatable status and value.

The illustrations are very well done, although the horizontal orientation of some gastropods is unfortunate. The numerous minute species such as the Vitrinellidae, many figured for the first time in a popular publication, add to the value of this book. The high cost of the book, due in part to the format, may lessen its demand, but he who can afford it will find it a worthwhile addition to his library.